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GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

For Immediate Release:

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14th Street Improvement Project

Southbound Resurfacing to Bring Heavy Traffic Delays to Downtown Connector this Weekend

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation is warning motorists traveling through Atlanta over the weekend to expect heavy delays on the Downtown Connector **southbound between the I-75/I-85 split and 10th Street** as crews continue resurfacing work related to the 14th Street Bridge improvement project.

Starting at 11:00 Saturday morning the HOV lane and the left general travel lane on I-85 south and the HOV lane of I-75 south will be closed through the weekend to 5 a.m. Monday. The Department recommends southbound motorists who are not traveling into Atlanta to use I-285.

“The rain last weekend didn’t allow us to finish the southbound paving,” said Metro Atlanta Construction Engineer Mickey McGee. “We hope to complete southbound work this weekend, weather permitting.”

These closures are part of an ongoing \$88.5 million project to replace the 14th Street Bridge over the Downtown Connector to relieve congestion at the 14th Street interchange. The improved bridge features two new exit ramps from the interstate: southbound to 10th Street, which opened in June, and northbound to 17th Street, expected to open in early 2010. The estimated cost of the project is \$88.5 million.

Traffic delays throughout Downtown, especially in Midtown are to be expected. Motorists should allow additional travel time and/or choose alternate routes during this construction projects. For information on commuting alternatives contact the Clean Air campaign at www.cleanaircampaign.com/

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about this or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at www.511ga.org.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia’s economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).

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